

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended without prejudice.

The office rejected claims 1-6, 8-15 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Restarick et al. (USP 6,684,951). Claims 1 and 12 have been amended now to include the limitation that the drill string has a plurality of drill pipes and a bottom hole assembly for drilling a borehole into the earth. This and the further amendment that the receptacle has an open end to receive drilling mud during drilling makes it clear that the filter of the present invention as claimed in claims 1 and 12 is for the drilling mud during drilling.

In contrast Restarick's does not disclose a plurality of drill pipes and a bottom hole assembly for drilling a borehole into the earth, and does not have a receptacle with an open end to receive drilling mud during drilling. Since claims 1 and 12 as amended are now novel and allowable over Restarick et al., Applicants respectfully request allowance of these claims.

Since claims 2-6 and 8-11 depend from now allowable base claim 1 and that since claims 13-15 and 17-19 depend from now allowable base claim 12 that these claims are now also now allowable.

The Office rejected claims 7 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Restarick et al. Since claim 7 depends from now allowable base claim 1 and since claim 16 depends from now allowable base claim 12, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7 and 16 are allowable over Restarick.

In view of the arguments and amendments made herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

It is believed that there are no fees due at this time. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 180584. If there are any questions concerning the above, please contact the undersigned at (281) 878-5658.

Respectfully submitted,

/Jeffery E. Daly/

Electronically signed by Jeffery E. Daly on April 11, 2007

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